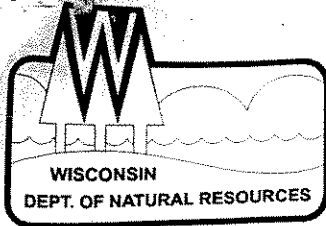


SB 180



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tommy G. Thompson, Governor  
George E. Meyer, Secretary

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MAY 13

May 5, 1999

The Honorable Carol Roessler  
Wisconsin Senate  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: L9542

*Carol*  
Dear Senator Roessler:

Thank you for your letter regarding the issuance of Game Farm Licenses by the Department of Natural Resources

Game Bird and Animal Farm and Wildlife Exhibit licenses are issued in accordance with the provisions set forth in chapter 29 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Currently there is not a provision within the statutes to allow the department to deny an application based on a local or county zoning requirement.

Thomas Solin, Chief of Special Operations for the Bureau of Law Enforcement conducts a final review of all applications for the department. Warden Solin acknowledges there is an increasing number of complaints from County Zoning Administrators reference the Department of Natural Resources licensing procedure.

To address this issue, last year the department modified the permit to include the following notice: **"IN ADDITION TO THIS LICENSE, THERE MAY ALSO BE A COUNTY OR LOCAL ZONING REQUIREMENT WITH WHICH THE LICENSEE MUST COMPLY. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OR COUNTY LAND USE OR ZONING OFFICE FOR FUTURE INFORMATION."**

A copy of the license issued to Neal Stroh is attached and the notice is on the face of the Game Bird and Animal Farm License.

Jeff Bluske, Director of the La Crosse County Zoning and Land Information Office recommended the department adopt a procedure requiring a sign-off by the local zoning office prior to licensing by the department. Legal staff at the department advised statutes 29.861 and 29.867 would have to be revised before the department could adopt this procedure.

The department would support an amendment to the statutes requiring the applicant to certify they have received local approval for the type of business prior to applying for a Game Bird and Animal Farm and Wildlife Exhibit license.

Sincerely,

*George*  
George E. Meyer  
Secretary

*Thank you for your letter*

Legislative Representative  
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Neillsville, WI 54456-0065  
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April 9, 2001

Senator Carol Roessler  
State Senator—18th Senate District  
403 N. Hamilton St.  
Madison, Wis. 53707-7882

Re: LRB 0117/2 Local Approval for Exotic  
Animals at Game Bird and Animal Farms  
and Wildlife Exhibits

Dear Senator Roessler:

On behalf of Wisconsin Towns Association I want to express our support for introduction and passage of LRB 0117/2 which will give local governments additional approval over the issuance of game bird and animal farms and wildlife exhibits when the applicant intends to have bear, cougar, or wolf on these types of premises. This additional approval for local government is necessary to protect the community interests and insure that neighbors of such facilities can feel secure in their own homes. It is not an unreasonable burden on such facilities to seek local approval when the animals involved are the large type animals named in the bill.

Thank you for having this bill drafted and your support of local control in these important matters relating to land use issues.

Very truly yours,



Richard J. Stadelman  
Executive Director

May 31, 2001

Senator Carol Roessler testimony on SB 180

Good morning chairman Baumgart and committee members..

Tom Hollander and Dennis Badtke, Town of Springvale chairperson and supervisor respectively, brought this issue to my attention. We had hoped that one of these individuals could be with me today to give you their first-hand experience, but due to farming being their primary employment, they were unavailable to come to Madison today. (Mention/distribute letter from Town of Springvale)

Mr. Badtke came to me with a problem they were experiencing with a town resident who was housing a bear. The Department of Natural Resources issued a permit in the Town of Springvale without notification to local officials. Local town officials started receiving several calls from concerned residents wondering how a bear could be in such close proximity to other residences.

Upon consultation with DNR, we found that the wording advising applicants to obtain local zoning approval is on the application and the actual permit, but there is no "checking" if an applicant contacted their local municipality. I agreed with Mr. Badtke that zoning approval should be included before the actual application is processed (at the front end). We also agreed that it is very unlikely someone would contact their local municipality for zoning approval once they have the DNR permit in hand.

Thus, this bill language was advanced after a meeting I convened with Robin Kite (LRB drafting attorney), Tom

Harnisch (WI Towns Association), Tom Solin (DNR) and my constituents to look at ways to provide a "local checkoff" for game farm permits or wildlife exhibits that have a bear, cougar or wolf.

Both the Wisconsin Towns Association and the DNR are supportive of this legislation.

SB 180 requires a game farm or wildlife exhibit applicant for bear, wolf or cougar to submit a statement to the DNR that the governing body of the city, village or town where the game farm will be located has **either enacted a zoning ordinance or adopted a resolution that permits the establishment and maintenance of such a game farm or wildlife exhibit.** This same requirement will also be required of license renewals for these three animals if the original license was issued before the effective date of the bill or if the original license did not permit bear, cougar or wolf. DNR may then issue or renew a license if they determine from the statement submitted by the applicant that the governing body permits this game farm or exhibit.

Basically this bill requires a local checkoff with the appropriate local government authority so that concerns with fencing and safety issues are raised at the front-end of the game farm licensing process rather than after an actual permit license has been authorized.

Any questions?

TO: Committee on Environmental Resources

Thank you for considering Senate Bill 180. The Town of Springvale, Fond du Lac County had our first dealings with questions about game farm licensing 1-½ years ago. The specific question at one of our Town Board meetings was, How can the the Department of Natural Resources issue a game farm license in our Town without first contacting the local officials in regard to zoning and public safety issues? At that point Dennis Badtke contacted State Senator Carol Roessler for an opinion in regard to this. After finding out the facts the general consensus was that the current State Statutes in regard to game farm licensing could be improved.

It is our belief that Senate Bill 180 brings the issue of game farm licensing up to modern day standards. Game farm licensing should be accountable to zoning, as is any other business in our Town. The safety issue is a concern to adjacent property owners and should be a great concern if a residential district was nearby. We believe that senate Bill 180 addresses the above concerns and should help protect the well being of the general public.

Therefore we ask that you move Senate bill 180 through committee and on to a general vote of the Senate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Hollander, Town Chairman

Dennis Badtke, Town Supervisor

Orrin Kimble, Town Supervisor

# Vote Record

## Senate - Committee on Environmental Resources

Date: 5/31/01

Bill Number: SB 180

Moved by: Sen Hansen

Seconded by: Baumgart

Motion: Passage

### Committee Member

### Aye

### No

### Absent

### Not Voting

Sen. Jim Baumgart, Chair

☒☐☐☐

Sen. David Hansen

☒☐☐☐

Sen. Robert Wirth

*Passing*

☒☐☐☐

Sen. Robert Cowles

☒☐☐☐

Sen. Dale Schultz

☒☐☐☐

Totals:

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☐

Motion Carried

☐

Motion Failed